

I am writing to provide comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. E-Rate has been very important to the Long Beach City School District because it has helped our students and teachers gain access to the Internet and the online resources found there. However, E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with my district's bandwidth needs. I urge you to raise the E-Rate funding level to at least \$5 billion per year, which is close to the average demand level for each of the past two years.

As a Superintendent in New York, I know that the availability of digital learning is essential for students college and career readiness. Continued access to high-speed broadband is the key to allowing modern teaching and learning to occur in all schools across the country.

In my district we will be using the digital environment to participate in Common Core instruction and assessment. We need to upgrade our system to meet the demand of our end-users and of the State Education Department.

The E-Rate program has been a phenomenal success in bringing internet access to almost every classroom in America. In the last funding cycle, applications from schools and libraries requested a total of more than \$5 billion—twice the amount of available funding. I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students need access to high-speed broadband. Our nation's future depends on their success.